A

SERMON

PREACHEDIN

S PAULS
BEFORE THE
RIGHT HONOR ABLE

THE

Lord Mayor

BY THE

Late Reverend Father in GOD,

FEDWARD RETNOLDS,

Late Lord Bishop of Norwich.

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STATIONER TO THE READER

Courteous Reader,

Here present thee with a Sermon many years since Preached in St. Paul's before the Lord Mayor and his Brethren, by the late Right Reverend Father in God D Edward Reynolds late Lord Bishop of Norwich.

This Copy I received from the hands of a Gentleman, who being an Auditor himself of the Sermon, and of good acquaintance with the said Lord Bishop, obtained it of him fairly written in his own hand with liberty to transcribe it.

Which being carefully done, and revised by the original, is here presented to thy view.

This

The Stationer to the Reader.

This Gentleman bad mo farther affure thee, that notwithstanding be knows his copy to be exact, he would not have taken that holdness to have printed it, had he not first obtained from the Author a willingness that it might be printed, which himself would have done, but could not readily find his papers.

This encouragement made him willing to let the world be partaker of this excellent and elaborate discourse, by which he being dead; you speaks to thee in the words of the Prophet, to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk hum-

bly with thy God.

Thine in all fervice;

Mentubic own land

A

SERMON

Preached in St. Pauls, before the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor.

Migah Chap. 6. Ver. 6,7,8.

Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow my self before the high God? shall I come before him with burntofferings, with calves of a year old?

will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my first born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8. He hath showed thee O man what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love

mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.

In the beginning of this Chapter we find mention of a controverly between God the Plaintiff, and his People the Delinquent. The action, an action of unkindness and ingratitude after two great deliverances; from the tyranny of Pharaob in Egypt, from the subtilty of Balaam in Moab. And this is an high aggravation of injury when it is done by a friend, the Philosopher tells us, Rhet.lib.1. 2 or river, you know was the deepest wound that Casar telt; and Moses is at the self same sigure, Do ye thus require the Lord, O foolish people, and B

unwise ? Is not he thy Father? Deut. 32.6. Job complains of it as of one of his greatest afflictions, They whom I loved, are turned against me, Job 19. 19. 19. he that was greater than Job at Jobs greatest excellency of patience, cannot but complain of this, that his wounds like Amnons were given him in the House of a friend, Zach. 13.6. The kiss of a Disciple did no less pierce him, than the Nails of a Souldier. His Enemies that wounded him found mercy, when his friends that betrayed him found none.

The people being cited to appear to this action, and being condemned by their own witness, begin to betake themselves to counsel: Not how they may come and stand before God, which is the gesture of men that can abide a trial; Isa. \$6.89 but how they may come and bow before him to deprecate the

judgment which they are forced to acknowledge.

And when they have advised upon a course of their own, and made tender of performances of their own to make an expiation, they all come short, and are rejected. God himself is pleased to be of their counsel, and he who in the beginning of the suit was the Plaintiff to accuse them, in the issue becomes their Advocate to instruct them; and when he had a judgment entred against them upon their own confession, doth himself not withstanding direct the way how that judgment may be reversed, and avoided.

He bath flewed thee O man, &c.

But what then are the counsels that he gave? Surely one would judge but such as were very obvious, and which any man might have given to himself; To be just, merciful, humble, religious: Who could not have said as much as this?

Certainly how mean instructions soever we may judg them, there is not a man can learn them but of God. Let Israel alone here to counsel himself; we find him at his Sacrifices, and Holocausts, with rams, and oyls, with thousands, and ten thousands, with a child, a first-born, with as many costly and hyperbolical evasions, and circuitions of his own carnal wor-

fhip, will-worship as Rhetorick can express; Sacrifices more fumptuous than justice could provide, Sacrifices more bloody than mercy would allow; but all this while not a word of Ju-

frice, or Mercy themselves.

But what? did not God shew those as well as these? did not Moses as well receive the pattern of the Sanctuary, as the Tubles of the Law? did not the law give an expressindicavit for these too? Surely we may not deny it. But it is still with respect to judgment, and mercy. Commanded they were, but not as principal, either in point of obedience, for they must yield to the great duties of the law; or in point of expiation, for they must lead to the great Sacrifice of the gospel: Leave these things out, and then ask of God whether he required those or no, and he will answer you with a Quis requisivit, Hai. 1.12. Ask whether he will own them or no, and he will tell you, they are yours, and not his, Amos 5.21. Nay ask him whether they be good or no, and he will tell you plainly, Dedie in pracepta non bona, I gave them Statutes which were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live.

Well then, my people, if you will needs be faved by offering of thousands, and ten thousands, go not to the Mountains for them, but go to thy Conscience; there thou shalt find thousands of beastly, and ten thousand of inordinate desires

to be flaughtered, and facrificed unto him.

No Sacrifice to that which is reasonable, Rom. 12. 1. No oblation to that of thy self, Rom. 15. 16. No Rams to the rams of Nebaloth, the confluence of the Gentiles to the Gospel, Isi. 60. 10.

If you will needs from through rivers to Heaven, Rivers of oyl are nothing worth to rivers of judgment. Let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream,

Amos 5. 24.

If thou wilt needs go to God with meat-offerings of oyl, no oyl to the Samaritans oyl of mercy and compassion, Luc. 10-34.

If you dare not come to God without a first-born, go not to thy self for one. Thine is like thy self, sinful and unclean; but take him in thy arms who is the first born of every creature. There is none but it responses, one child-bearing which can save thee, 1 Tim. 21 15.

You see which way the words look and what they intend, and that you may see it yet more clearly, let us take them in

funder, and consider in them these two general parts.

An Seek how to be at peace with an offended God.

A full and solid answer of the Prophet to that engatey.

In the peoples enquiry after God are observable two

things.

(Question it The { self, & there { are likewise

Their festination, in quo præveniant, occurram, antevertam. So much the word imports, Job 4.2. Deuter. 23.4. Nehent 13.2. Psal. 68.28. Hab. 6.2.

Their prostration and humility. Incurvabo me coram Deo excelso.

Anticipation of the Prophets external services instituted by answer by proffers and ad- God himself.

dresses of their own in many Excogitated supererogations costly and difficult acts of animonted by themselves,

In the Prophet's answer are likewise considerable two general parts.

An Implicite reprehension and rejection of those. Positive and express direction unto other duties.

Carnal confidence in external duties severed from the great duties of the law.

First, A reprehension of Arbitrary ways and projects of human devotion, beside and

human devotion, beside and without the rule of Gods word.

Secondly, A politive and express direction how to come

and appear before God in his worship with acceptation, in his judgment with confidence, in his Kingdom with glory; to wit in the great duties of the Law and Gospel. And here are confiderable four particulars.

(1. Judgment, and that to be done. 1. The Substance of 12. Mercy and that to be beloved.

the duties required.)3. Walking with God, and for that to be bumbled.

they maft rife.

I. The light of Gods law, Ille indicavit, he hath shewed.

The principles whence 2. The authority of Gods will Quid requisivit, what he hath re-

3. The manner how couched in these words, to walk humbly with the God; which I take not only for the specification of a distinct duty, but a qualification also of both the other which are,

1. In constancy, it must be ambulation, a tenor, progress, proficiency; jumping or leaping will not ferve the turn.

2. In sincerity, with an eye to God, so as to agree with him and to please him.

To be done

persons. 3. In humility, denying our selves both and duties.

4. In faith, the foundation of all the reft, we must walk with him as our God.

And 4. the inducement unto those duties, which we find likewise couched in the text.

And they are in regard of our selves, human feailty, O man. Gods

Divine Majesty, be is a most high God, we cannot otherwise approach to him. Divine mercy, he is a grav cions God, ready to teach us how we may,

Duties they are good by con- Gods will, as expressions of it. formity to the rule.

I begin with the anxious and folicitous question of the guilty people: Wherewith Shall I come before the Lord, &c.

I wonder to hear guilt talk of appearing before God. Look on it when it came first into the world, and you will find it running away from God. Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God, amongst the trees of the garden, Gen. 3. 8. And furely if the Sun and Moon be affial med, Isa. 24. 23. if the Heavens be not clear, Job 15. if the Seraphims cover their face and feet, Isai. 6. 2. If Mofer may not draw too nigh, Exod. 3. 5. but did exceedingly quake and tremble, Heb. 12. 21. if Elias cover his face, 1 Kings 19. 13. if Isaiah cry out, I am undone, Chap. 6, 1 Tob abhor himself in dust and ashes, cap. 42. 6. if the 24 Elders cast down their Crowns, Revel. 4. 10. I wonder with what confidence Hypocrites dare think of meeting God. It not a confuming fire, Heb. 12.29. and how dare thoms and briars stand before him, Isai. 27.4? Doth he not dwell in light which no man can approach unto, I Tim. 6. 16? and what hath darkness with light, for every one that doth evil bateth the light, neither cometh to it, Joh. 3.20. 4

Something furely there is in it that guilty men bethink themselves of meeting God. By nature they do not so much as feek after him; God is not in all their thoughts, Plat. 10. 4. They love not to retain him in their knowledge, Rom. 1.

28. They are alienated, and estranged from his life, Epb. 4. 18. They would fain be without God in the World, Eph. 2.

12. They would have the holy one of Ifrael cease from

among them, Ifai. 39. 11.

If you look to the two first Verses of this Chapter, you will find the reason of all this. God hath a controversy, plead he will; and as he called for Adam when he hid himself, Adam where art thou? Gen. 3. 9. fo here he calleth forth the people to this controversy, O my people, what have I done unto thee? v.3 and they who contended with one another were to come near and to stand together, Isai. 50. 8. Act.

25-16.

Now then Cum rex justin federit in folio, When once God citeth the Conscience to histribunal, Prepare to meet thy God O Ifrael, Amor 4.12. When the Soul is once awakened, and fartled with this question, how wilt thou, do to dwell with devouring fire, and with everlasting burning? then the Enners in Sion are afraid, fearfulness doth surprise the bypocrite, Isi. 33. 14. When there is a noise of the Bride grooms coming, then the foolish Virgins think of their Lamps and ask after Oyl as well as the wife. Wicked men themselves may be so convinced of their sins, and of Gods greatness, of the guilt that is in them, and of the terror that is in God, that out of the force and principles of a startled and awaked Concience, they shall be affected with notable fear of the wrath come, and be constrained to bethink themselves of a treaty peace, and of preventing that wrath ere it overtake them. Even the Pharifees and Sadducees, a Generation of Vipers, had fome warning to flee from the wrath to come, Mat. 3. 7. Ay Felix an unjust and finful Judge, cannot but tremble at the Sermon of this at the bar, Act. 24. 25. Thunder will make Pharaoh repent, Exod. 9, 27. and terror will make Judas re-Pont, Mat. 27. 3.

The Prophet Bliah will drive Ahab into Sackcloth, and John Baptist the second Eliah constrains Herod to do many things. The Scullion that cares not for the foulness of the coat, will be afraid to handle it when he sees it on fire. The most covetous man that is, will not dare to dive to the bottom of the Sea to gather Pearls, or put his hand into a burning Furnace to hug his gold whilst it is melting. The robber that threatens on the high way, bring him to the bar and he will speak supplications. Next to mercy, there is no such Orator to perswade guilty men, as terror. We having, saith the Apo-

ftle

fle, the terror of the Lord do perswade men. He speaks of appearing before the judgment seat, 2 Cor. 5. 11. When Saul hears of restitution, then he cryed out, I hear since sinced, 1 Sam. 15. 24. When Esau perceived he had soft the blessing indeed, then he cryed out with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and with many tears would have perswaded Isaac to repent, and change his resolution, Heb. 12. 17. Even the worst of Sinners, wilful Apostates that have thrown away mercy, are yet amazed with judgment, and with a fearful looking for it,

and fiery indignation, Heb. 10. 27.

The Conscience thus awakened by Gods controversy, and fummoned to his Tribunal; will then from the pang and pinch of terror be marvellous inquisitive after the ways of escape. As foon as ever John Baptist lays his Axe to the root of the tree, the people, the Publicans and Souldiers are every one ask ing questions, Luke 5. 9.14. When the Plague of Locusts was apon Pharaoh, and his House, then he sent to Moses and Aaron in haste to ask pardon, and intreat the Lord, Exod, 16. 16. When God flew Ifrael, then they fought and enquired early, even when their heart was not right, and when they were not stedfast in his Covenant, Pfal. 78. 37. Fear is marvellous inquisitive. Watchman! what of the night, what of the night, watchman! it doubles question upon question, Ifa. 21. 11, 12. as forrow doth complaint upon complaint. And indeed this is an excellent inquiry how we may do to fand before God; if men were not in this case like Pilate, who ask'd a question but would not stay for an answer, Joh. 18. 28. if they would not anticipate the Indicavit in the Text. but stay for Gods own resolution. But as nothing is more contrary to faith than fear, Mat. 8. 26. so nothing bath a more contrary operation. He that believeth doth not make baft, Ifa. 28. 16. whereas he that feareth cannot stand still, infomuch that in mens fears they are faid to fly seven ways at once, Deuteron. 28.7. There is no passion either more solicitous in asking counsel, or less constant in following that which is given. Yea many times so desperate is the hypocristy of mensions, that fear or formality force them to ask the question; yet lust over-rules them to make their own answer. Johanan, and the people came down to ask counsel what they should do, whether go into Egypt, of stay in the land, Jer. 42.23? but receiving an answer contrary to their expectation, they tell the Prophet plainly, that be speaks falsly, cap. 43.2. And another time the people came and sat before that Prophet, and enquired of God, but God tells him, they kept tidols in their hearts, and resolved they should be counsellors that should regulate their behaviour, and God would not be

enoured of, Ezec. 14.17.20. 30: chap.

The truth is, men would fain, if possible, reconcile Gods fervice and their lust together; and therefore they take counlet of themselves, Toistor Toistos sautois to Body, making God meh a God to themselves, as Pasquilius speaks, as they bad made them selves to be unto him, they would fain be unto bem selves Arbitri religionis & praceptorum, even dabres, as Hilarius Pictaviensis elegantly speaketh, and the Philosopher gives the reason of it in another case, willes warner ayarasi auras leva, That every man loves his own way beft, as Parents do their own children; and therefore betakes him felf to many inventions of his own. So long as fin is loved, and lust retained, men will not go downright to the will of God, but to carnal reason. When God called to St. Paul by his trace, and revealed Christ unto him, then only it was that he resolved not to confer with flesh and blood, Gal. 1. 16. If Ahaz be commanded to believe, and for confirmation of his faith have a fign offered him, he will not take Gods way to trult in him, but his own way, an arm of flesh. I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord, Ifai. 7. 12. Spiritual things are above the reach of carnal thoughts, Principles, and not only above them but against them. The wisdom of the flesh is enmity to God, Rom. 8.7. and the natural man neither knoweth nor receiveth the things of God, 1 Cor. 2. 14.

It is the voice of fielh and blood, Nolumns bute, We will not have him to rule over us; and therefore is water can move no higher than the fountain of it, to carnal principles can carry men no farther than carnal performances. And the truth is, Carnal men have but gross and carnal notions of God and his Kingdom. To be glorifyed, is to be like unto Christ, Ph. 3. As the eye by seeing the Sun is made like unto the Sun, so he who rejects his image here bath no true desire of his glory there. Joh. 3. 3. Having therefore none but carnal notions of God, they have none but carnal notions of his service too.

And furely, to fay truth, every man is so afraid of the wrath of God when he begins to understand it, that though be confult with nothing but slesh and blood, yet he will go far to

escape it.

observation, be they never so sull perform with all punctual observation, be they never so sull of strictness, costliness, difficulty; never so numerous, never so sumptuous, he will will lingly undertake them all; so rivers are used to express abundance, Job 20. 17. But here is his misery in that point, that then when he doth multiply them beyond number, yet he doth dimidiate them by leaving out the sole duties of faith and repentance, and reasonable service, which through the Sacrifice should have lead his soul to the substance, and therefore God objects it to them, They sacrifice sheeps, Hos. 8. 12, whereas the sacrifice of God is a broken Spirit, Psa. 51. 19, and therefore he calleth multiplying of sacrifices multiplying of transgressions, Amos 4. 4.

2. He will add unto this outward rigorous operations, forupulofitates negotiofus, as Tertullian expresses them. Many venturous austerities, and supererogations of his own. One Temple will not serve his turn, but he will build Temples, Hos. 8. 14. One Altar at Jerusalem shall not serve his turn, but he will have Altars, Hos. 10. 11. One holy City will not serve his turn, he will run to Bethel, and at Gilgal multiply transgressions, Amos 4. 4. Nay ordinary Sacrifices shall not

ferve

ferve his turn, he will not go to the Herd, and to the Stall only, for the first-fruit of his Cattel, but to his own bowels for the first-born of his body; Abaz who would not be perfwaded to take Gods way; would take his own, 2 Sam. 28.3.

though God commanded it not, Ifa. 4. 32.

A wicked man will part with any thing for salvation but his sin, and he will sooner sacrifice his Child than sacrifice his lust, and if it be possible, with the blood of his Son, will purchase to himself an annuity of sinning. If Herods child stand in the way of his timerous ambition, he had better have been his hog than his son; as Augustus spake.

And without question did the salvation of men hang upon this time, the sacrificing a first-born, as it doth indeed upon this line, the sacrificing a first-born, as it doth indeed upon this repentance, and new obedience, it would not be they, who call it away now by the contempt of these, would be merciful to the temporal life of their child as to shipwrack

upon the eternal life of their own.

f men then might have the deciding of this controverly in their own power, should we not; think you, hear multitudes now speaking like those in our Prophet then, wherein shall I come and bow before the high God; shall I offer up all my time in Sacrifices? all my substance in devotion? shall I change a Palace for a Cloifter? and put on Sack-cloth instead of purple? shall I nail mine eyes up to Heaven? and wear out my lungs with fighs? Shall I bruile my breast with buffets, and torture my back with scourges? shall I wither and shrink up my body with discipline, and make it a House of correction to the foul that is in it? will the Lord be pleased with thoufands of fighs, or with rivers of tears? shall I lick up the dust of the Temple, or kils the stones of the sanctuary hollow? Surely to do all these, and leave out graviora legis, judgment, mercy, to abound in voluntary humility, and be puft up with a fleshly mind, to be taken wholly up with bodily fervice, and to leave godlines quite out; to have a leavened countenance and a Pharifaical Conscience; law in the phylacteries

lacteries, and lust in the soul that is in it; is all but like him in Plutarch, whose lungs were putrifyed, and he ent to the Physician for a whitlee on his singer. The best outward performances, though not sounded in all-worship but in Gods own word, are all of them but Inaionala oden Heb. 9. 10. carnal ordinances, and compliant symptomia. I Tim. 4.8. bodily exercise. And such devotion So Basit compares to Bet the Idol, that was brass without, but clay within. It is to do with religion as men do with the Ostrich, wear the sur or feathers, but throw away the body.

We do then, faith Clemens Alexandrinus, truly monship God, when we do imitate him: And the sacrifice does not sandtify the man, but the conscience doth sandtify the sacri-

fices; as old Ireneus speaketh.

Take away this and you shall often find God vilifying his own institutions, not as ordained by him, but as depraved by us. Thus he calls their Sacrifices a shame, Ho. 4. 19. their Sermons Songs, Exech. 26. 13. their Psalms, a consused no se, Amos 5. 23. their prayers and incense, an abomination, Pro. 28. 9. Isai. 1. 13. their temple a den of thieves, Jer. 7. 11. their land a land of Sodom, Isa. 1. 10. their people a people of Athiopia, Amos 9. 7. their brasen Serpent, Nehustan, a piece of brass, Neh. 18. 4. their circumcision, concision, Phi. 3.2. their receiving the Lords Supper, not receiving it, 1 Cor. 11. 20. their facrifices, transgressions, Am. 4. 4.

Well, but it may be they who bid so high for salvation, so many thousands, and their very Children for advantage, had they known a better way, would not sailed to have tryed that too. No; ignorance can they pretend none; for, Ille indicavit, he hath not been wanting to shew them what it is which

he requires of them.

Such is the desperate corruption of the heart of men, eventhen when they are frighted with the wrath to come, and very, anxious and solicitous to fly from it; they do yet wilfully shut their eyes to the right way, choak, suppress, smother in them-

felves.

selves the light of saving truth; delude and cast a mist over their own confeience, and willingly rather choose their own wayes from wrath, than God's. Hec summa delitti nolle agnoscere quem ignarare non possunt. So long as men like not to part with their lufts, they cannot away with the light that discovers them. Falle wares love not true, but false lights, nothing but repentance will bring men to acknowledge the truth, 2 Tim. 2. 25. when men will lay apart filthiness, then they will receive the ingraffed word, 7am. 1. 19. when they will do his will, then they will know his doctrine, Joh. 1 17 when they fear him, then they will fee his fecret, and have their eyes toward the Lord, Pfa. 25. 14, 15. when they are to his way, then they will take his guidance, Pfa. 32. 8. But theil then they are willingly ignorant, I Pet. 3. 5. and like not to retain God in their knowledge, Rom. 11. 2. do refolve to contend against it, Rom. 2.8. In the things which they know in them they corrupt themselves, and though God hate robbery for burnt-offerings, do yet venture to hope, that when they have robbed God of substantial duties, he will rest fatisfied with their Sacrifices; and thus they deal with God just as Bankrupts with their Creditors; think they can put him off with parcel payment, and compound for so much in the hundred. So exceeding deceitful is the heart of man, as then when it fears wrath, it doth not so much as fly from it; hoodwinks and hidesit felf, like Cowards when they fee a blow coming do not ward it, but only wink that they may not fee it, and the fum of all their care is to perish by stealth.

We have hitherto examined the peoples question and found, First, The Consciences of wicked men, who naturally fly from God being shaken, and awakened do bethink

themselves of meeting him.

Secondly, Being thus shaken with the fear of wrath, mar-

vellous inquisitive how to escape it.

Thirdly, Not only making questions, but as it is said of the Mother of sifera, making answers unto themselves, and not betaking

betaking themselves as good men do to the will of God, I will know what God the Lord will say; but to the dictates and resolutions of carnal reason, and that making plentiful offers.

First, A most exact and sompulous observation of carnal duties.

Secondly, Of many Arbitrary, and excogitated ways of

will-worthip, and fupernumerary administrations.

Thirdly, All this not for want of means to discover a better way, but only as subterfuges, and evasions, and thickets or a naked guilty soul which is out of love with the spiritual and great duties of the law to shelter it self, and take sanctuary in from the Majesty of Gods presence, and from that temposit

of wrath that did first awaken it.

And now as the Apostle stopped the mouth of cavilling diff puters with & differe, Rom. 9. 20. O man who art thoust and God draws Adam out of the thicket, with & andewned Adam, where art thou, Gen. 5.8. so our Prophet here con futes all the specious but most empty arguments of Hypocritis against Gods controversy with & airgons, O man he buth shewed thee. If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him, but if a man sin against God, who shall intreat for him , I Sam. 2. 25. He is not a man as thon art, that thou fouldst answer bim, or come together in judgment, fob 9.32. Are calves, or rams, or children, fit to be Umpires betwixt a finner and his God? All thy former resolutions though apparently full of zeal and devotion, and voluntary humility. neglecting thy estate, thy body, thy bowels, adventuring all for mercy, were but the poor dictates of flesh and blood; all of them but the nudum hominem, as the Apoltle speaks, I Cor. 3. 3. as if a beggar should offer a bag full of farthings, or his Child at his back to a Prince for his Crown. Not thy Sacrifices, nor thy offerings, nor thy rams, nor thy eivers, or thy Children, or thy bowels will ferve the turn. But Ille indicavit, He hath shewed thee O man what is good

to thy self, and to God in his eyes and account. Not Sacrifice, and offerings, he desireth them not, he delighteth not in them, Pla 51. 16. but to do integenent, and love mercy.

And yet we may not think that God is careless of his outward worship, or of any of the external order and decency which belongs unto it. If they bring the lame, the sick, or any corrupt thing for a Sacrifice, they shall hear of it with a curse, Mal. 1.8. 14. All things are to be done decently, and in order. Thus when Ezra read in the Book of the law, the people stood up, and when he prayed they bowed down their heads, and listed up their hands, Nebe. 8. 5, 6. When our Saviour prayed he listed up his eyes to Heaven, Joh. 17. 1. What the solemn services were ended, the people bowed the head, and worshipped, 2 Chron. 29. 29. As men use a dead be the ropesers a quick; even so the due observance of that outward order in the people of God, which he hath appointed, doth serve both to express, and to bear up that awful and reverend affectation which the soul should have of him.

But there is the misery, and the mistake, that evil men being wholly carnal do rest, and stop at that part of Gods service which stands in carnal ordinances, not being either able or willing to perform spiritual services for want of spiritual and holy affections, and then in this case the Holy Spirit is express, in indianas, in indianas, the 10.5,6. Thou didst not require them to be performed, and when they were obtruded upon thee, thou didst take no delight in them. And he told his people he would not reprove them for their sacrifices, they were continually before him, but for their sins he would re-

prove them, Pfa. 50 8.

If Cain facrifice to God, and hate his Brother; if Doeg be detained before the Lord, and have a violent spirit against David; if the Pharisees make long prayers, and then devour Widows Houses; If Israel hear the Prophet and admire the Sermon, and run still after their covetousness; if the people inquire of God, and set up idols in their hearts; if they cry

The

The Temple, the Temple, and in the mean time swear, and murther, and commit adultery; if Judas kis, and then betray him; if the Souldier bow the knee, and then crucify him; if the eye look to Heaven, and the Soul cleave to the Earth; if the knee bow to the earth, and the heart lift it self against Heaven; if there be a tender body and a stubborn spirit; if the tongue flatter God, and the Conscience despise him; if a man cherish a Schism within himself, have the outside for God, and the inside for lust: I will not say as Achilles in the Poet, 1x8051 2ds more resided. Dut I will say as Christ in the Gospel, Go learn what that meaneth, I will have many

and not facrifice.

Go learn, and take heed of whom you learn. If you have not an ille indicavit, a direction from him, you will little be to feek of your duty. As we cannot fee the Sun but by its own light, so we cannot know God, or his worship, but or divine revelation. Look how far he is pleased to stoop unto us, fo far we are also to mount unto him. Moses was to do all things according to the pattern in the Mount, Ad. 7.44. Heb. 8. 5. And the Apostles Commission in the Gospel is the fame; teaching them to observe all things what soever I commanded you, Mat. 28. 20. It must first seem good to the Holy Ghost, and then to them, Ad. 15. 29. They must declare nothing to the Church but what they have received. They from us, and we from them, I Cor. 11.20. 2 Tim. 2.2 We must not serve, ex arbitrio, but ex imperio, as Terrall. speaks, in it Butousta theyward at yeagan, atta is yeggartas touthouse anonothioas, faith St. Bafil, The Scripture doth not comply with us, but we must submit to that. The ruler is not to be leaded to the stone, but the stone to be squared by the ruler; our straining and wrying of Gods word to our own humours, is a fin which hath damnation attending it, 2 Pet. 3. 16. and we find God finding great fault with fuch fervice obtruded upon him as hath not entred into his heart, Jer. 7. 32. For as at the omission of what he commands we despise his will, so in obtruding

obtruding what he commands not, we controll his Wisdome; in the one we show our selves careles to obey him; in the other we show our selves presume one to counsel him. We are the servants of it, and the servant, as the Philosopher saith, hath no motion but from the guidance of the principal cause. Namque coquus domini debet bahere gulam, The cook must dress his meat to his Masters palate, not to his own. That spartan which added one string more to his instrument in the war than was publickly allowed him, though he mended his musick, yet he marred his obedience, and he was punished for it. And therefore in all our conversation, especially religious and toward God, it is most wisdome, and safest to keep toward our standard, and publick rule.

thave now done with the implicit reprehension of defective and invented service, and proceed now to the great things of the law in the text required, judgment, and mercy, that to be

done, this to be loved.

The same water with is sour in the juice of a fig-tree, is sweet in the fruit. And as we have found that devotion in the out-side and bark of religion is but sour, and unpleasing: so if you taste it now in the power and fruit of it, you will find it ceeding sweet; for the best sacrifice which any man can offer.

is a purelife, as the Father speaks.

Many duties in scripture are of a narrow, and contracted nature, some only spiritual belonging to the soul, others only corporal belonging to the body, as the Apostle distinguisheth of some, filthings of the stellar and spirit; but these which are very often twins in scripture, have a great latitude, reaching both of them to our bodies, souls, our estates, to all that concerns Gods glorious name which he proclaimed to Moses made up of these two, Exod. 34. 6, 7.

It would be endless to handle them according to the latitude of their common places. I shall be able only to put you in re-

membrance of some principal particulars.

To do justly reacheth, as I conceive, in this place unto a three-

D

fold

fold justice, according to the different conditions of men. Justice in administration, in negotiation, in convertion.

In administration, and the both sagred and secular. In facred administration, the Ministers of the word are said to judge, Ezec. 20.4. to be rulers over the houshold to give them meat, Mat. 24. 45. to have power of binding and looking, Mat. 16. 19. to have it in their power to avenge disobedience. 2 Cor. 10. 5. to be Stewards, Embassadors, Officers between God and man, 1 Cor. 4. 1. and there is no office but justice belongs to it, and that is in this case of 30 TOMEN rightly to divide neword, 2 Tim. 3. 15. and to give to every man otrouse his own Dimensum, and allowance. Threats to the obstinate. promifes to gainfayers, comfort to mourners, counfel to the unfetled. There can be no greater injustice to the fouls of men than to fay peace where there is no peace, or to make fad where he Lord hath not made fad. Secondly, wit manuscien not to conupt, or adulterate the word of God, 2 Cor. 4. 2. to put chaff with wheat, and dross with filver, and wine with water, and traw and stubble with precious stones, and the language of Ashdod with the language of Canaan, and leaven with facrifice. Samaritan contemperations of purity and Popery, of piety and profanels. Our Saviour gives us both in a word, Feed my fbeed, they must be fed, not poysoned:

In administration of civil. Thus a Magistrate and Judg is, as the Philosopher elegantly, Tanquam argentarius, to distinguish between that which is base, and pretious, and he is wind Finals, keeper of the tables of the Law. As the Priestslips must preserve knowledg, so the Magistrate must preserve judgment, and the people seek it at their mouth. So long as there are in common-wealths contentions to be composed, enormities to be punished, innocence to be protected, increachments to be restrained, property to be distinguished, and preserved, and in all these manifold emergent difficulties to be resolved, and antinomies to be reconciled; there will be a necessity of learned, faithfull and religious Ministers, who may be the demorrace of publick justice. Deut. 16. 18.

And when such there are, it is their great work to do judg ment; it is not enough to have it in the brain, to know it, and in the lips to praile it. Non logutheur magna, sed vivimur. Justice is never in its right place till it come to the hand to do it, It is not enough for the honour, and fecurity of a Kingdome that justice be in the Laws, but it must be in the Judges too, they must be a living and speaking Law. Righteousness in the Law is butlike Exechiels vision of the dead bones in the valley. they never have the strength of Law till the Magistrate puts Life into them by execution. Justice in the Law is like Gold the mine, which while it isthere only, doth no man good; but when in the Magistrate is like gold coyned, or plate on the Chipboard for use and honour. A magnitrate is the keeper of medick justice, as the conduit is of common water in a City. es andrew ayasor, and they must let it out for the use of other and so the phrase in scripture is Egrediatur Judicium, Hab. It must run down like waters, Amos 5. 24. and it is said of it that he should bring forth judgment unto truth, Ifa. 40. Ambitious hopes, shrinking fears, low passions, domestick ends, personal interests, foreign compliance and correspondence may prove miserable weeds and obstructions in the stream of justice.

And therefore the fins of Judges and Magistrates in their publick administrations are called by the Prophet Mighty sins, 12. Diseases in the bones of the common-wealth; for so much the original word importeth sometimes. Moving of Foundations, Pfel. 82. 5. Removing of Bounds, Hos. 5.10. which was one of the solemn curses upon mount Ebal, Dent.

Therefore faith the Lord, I will pour out my wrath upon them like water, as a man that pulleth down the sea-banks letterh in a floud to destroy himself: whereas on the other side upright and just Magistrates like Moses stand in the gap, and are binders, healers, sanctuaries, hiding places unto the people from the storm and rempest.

Do

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2. There is justice in negotiation, which we may in the case leave out; for if you look but a verse beyond the text you will find our Prophet complaining for want of it, and crying out against Scant measure, micked balances, dectifull and light meights. 10.11. fcant measures will fill the full measure of guilt and light weights bring upon the foul a heavy weight of judgment. The Prophet makes mention of wickedness in an Ophir, Zach. 5.8. Anotherefore as Jab was carefull that the Furrows of the field might not complain of him, 70b 31.38. To be you carefull that your Ephah, and your balance, which are unto you your lands. and your furrows, as the Prophet calls it the harveft of the fea. Isaah 23. 2.) do not cry out unto God against you: Let hat any one (faith the Apostle) defrand, or over-reach his bratter in any matter, for God is the avenger of those things. 1 The 4.6. Take heed of fevering the portion of gain from godline for to esteem all good profit that comes in by fordid and sinfill acos, a snare, a temptation, a drowning follows upon it, a Time 6.9. He that overloads his ship though it be with gold, heaps in up for the sea, and not for himself. Learn so to converse with the world as not to be without God in the world. Let not the Ephah and the sheckle wrangle with the New Moon, and the Sabbath, as it is, Amos 8. 5. Let not the world get into your hearts to choke the word. Your coffers are good enough for money, keep your consciences for God. They who go down into mines to dig up gold and filver, carry candles with the and when the damp comes though it be gold they dare not flay with it: your trades are your mines out of which you die your treasure; sink not your selves into them withour Davids Lanthorn, the word of God; and if your confeiences feel the damp of the Earth, covetous luft begin to work, then make half upward with Davids prayer, Incline my heart unto thy von may not carry the shop into the Temple, & make that a place of money-changers; yet you must not thrust the Temple out of the shop; there is no place but holines will become it. In

the Prophet a merchant is called Chanar, Hof. 12.7. but in the parable a Christian is called a merchant, Mat. 13.45. Remember in your professions to be Christians and not Canaanites.

2. There is justice in conversation, which is a fincere, intire, quare, faithfull converling with mens when a man is constate to his word, fixed to his honestresolutions, vesterday and to day the same, this makes a man like unto God whose name is One, Zach. 14 9. Like unto him whole name is Amen, Rev. 21 14. And therefore we being members of him of whom we ca learn nothing but what should be true and just one to another Ent. 415. It is faid of Aper a fervant of the Emperour Deo. Thu standing him fail in performance of promile, he laid hold of in purple robe, and told him it was too rich a cover for followd. Certainly it is not fit that fuch a robe as the name of Christ should be used to shroud and palliate deceit; and indeed fach kind of unjust and false men, who are like him possessed of an inclean foirit, Luk. 8. 29. whom no bonds can hold who care not how many they deceive, if they can have but a cloak to palliate it; who like the Serpent will infinuate, and then fting; like the Cockatrice weep, and then bite; like the Panther allure with the fweet breath, and then destroy with her sharp teeth; who make truth give place to turns, and for advantage lay and unfay, do and undo; like those in Greg. Nazianzen, Jahns to day, and Judafes to morrow. Such men as these are not members but ulcers in the common body, and they must be fure that that justice which they hate will find them out at the late; for men of blond and deceit full not live out balf their days, Rfa 35.423.

But we no florer hear of fineerity, but presently mercy like Rachel as the more beautiful calls upon us for our love to her. I will not curiously inquire into the reason, why justice is bid to be done, but mercy to be loved: for of Christ it is said that he loved righteousness, Pfal. 45.1. But surely for the purishing part of justice, Jeremy tells us, that he did not define the world day thought he did denounce it, Jer. 17. 16. yea God

himself when he oft beateth, doth it not willingly, he hath no pleasure in the death of a singer; but when he saveth, when he sheweth mercy, in that he delighteth, ale 7, 18.

Haply to give unto a man that which he hath a just property and claim unto, men can be contented to do; 'tisviolence and robbery to withold it: but when we must give that which bour own to another, here grudging and unwillingness may creep in upon us. Now in justice I give a man that which is his, but in mercy I give that which is mine own; and therefore prevent repining, I am called upon not only to do it; but to do it cheerfully, heartily, willingly, to love mercy, to draw out the foul in it, Ifa. 58. 1. I shall not need to inquire the state or kind of it; if it were as well in our hearts and hands as its in our heads, we should need the less to be bid to love it. In one word there is Misericordia donans, a bountiful mercy, and ifericordia condonans, a pardoning mercy.

Mercy to them; the mercy of relief to those who are in any diftress; be as Job was, eyes to the blind, feet to the lame, father to the poor, Job 29. 15. To instruct the ignorant reclaim the wandring, confirm the weak, comfort the diffrested, exhort the fluggish, support the feeble, cloth the naked, feed the hungry, heal the fick, harbour the harbourless, wash the feet,

and minister to the necessities of the brethren.

Pardon; to shew mercy to these that are overtaken in a fault, forgiving one another, and forbearing one another. It is a grave observation which the Historian makes when he compares the different dealings of Fabius, and Manline in crimes which were much alike, Non minus firmatum Imperium de. That Government was as much honoured by mercy shewed to the one, as by the ruine of the other.

I shall use but three inducements unto both these duties of

mercy.

First, the excellency of it, nothing makesus so like unto God. That which St. Luke calls mercy, Luke 6. 36. St. Matthew calls perfection, Mat. 5. 48. When God linewed Moses his

glory, it was by his goodness, Gen. 35. 18. His name full of mercy, Early 34. 6. His works full of mercy, the Earth full, Pfal. 35. 5. the Heaven full, Pfal. 36.5. knowledg, wisdome, power, greatness, I will men may have some resemblance of, but none can imitate God in mercy but good men: for the

mendes of the wicked are cruel, Pro. 12. 10.

(Secondly, The Necessity of it unto all For the truth is, as solon said to Crasson, was an seven solutions, between the life, distressing the conscience; sorrows wounding the heart, and sears weakening it; death making pleasures short, and guilt making life bitter. What difference the harfever make between a Lord, and a begger, or what manned that lightning and thunder observe more toward a Cederal a shrub? All have need of mercy, therefore all must live it.

Thirdly, The benefit of it. No grace hath more abundant promifes made unto it than this of mercy, a fowing, a reapility arthrifty grace, Prov. 11. 22. Solomons excellent house in fretched out both her hands to the needy, Prov. 3. 20. Every tear that your mercy wipes away, every figh and groan that it removeth, every back that it clothes, every belly that it fills, every finking and oppressed man that it relieves, turn all into so many advocates, sollicitors and reall promises to procure greater mercies for you than you have been able to extend to them.

And now that you may always be in a readiness to comebefore God in these great duties of justice, and mercy; he is always in a readiness to come unto you, and teach you what he requires of you. He hath seemed these O Man. Man the author of the enmity, but God the director unto peace and reconciliation. And ever where God requires a duty, he doth first reveal a light, and according to the light which he revealoth is the account which he requires; where much is given much shall be required.

And furely in all Gods fervice either facred or civil, we mult

inve an Indicavit for what we do: we can have no knowledg, wisdome, obedience to free Cod, but only one of the scripture, free row research, in the consumers seed as Athanasius speaks, out of the holy scriptures, not on the abundance of our own hearts. If we pray it must be according to his will, Joh. 5. 14. if preach it must be according to his counter, Jer. 25. 22. if hear it must be what God the Lord will say, Pfal. 5. 8.

That which goes unto God must first come from him; as maters return to the sea, the own, as one well spake; he was pay our tribute in the Princes own coyn, we must not put our dead child into his bosom, and think he will our

it.

And here if I had time it would be worth the pains to Thills a little on the plenitude of Holy Scripture which the Ancients to much adored, and so it behoves all Gods Ministers Both fecred and civil never to speak any thing by the authority of God, except we have his Indicavit and requisivit to bear us out. Having always an eye to that dreadfull intermination, the that speaks any thing in my name which I have not commended him, even that Prophet shall dye, Deut. 18.20. It would infinitely conduce to the peace of the Church and States to the honour of Religion and justice, and to the avoiding of envy or standal, if every person in his order would regulate all his demeanours and administrations with a Quid requision, what is it that God would have me to do.

And lastly since we cannot do our duty, without an Indicavit from him; they shall all be taught of God; therefore this indicavit should be seconded by our Meditation; his requisivit with our requesting; his precepts and promises with our prayers; for he will be sought unto for what he promiseth, Exech. 36. 37. That he would make his way plain before our eyes; that so we may not only do the things which he requireth, but in doing them to walk with

him

For the very Philosopher could say, Alxanos isrr ix o raura

up the work.

1. Then, it must be ambulation, a constant tenor; a good man must be always like himself. Do what you can to gold, it will keep its nature in the fire. That is gold in justice and mercy indeed, which in all cases, when persons, passions, prejudices, favour, interests offer to immix themselves, keeps its nature intire still.

2. It must be Cum Deo with an eye to God, his word the code; his fear the principle; his glory the end: that who may not be for the gratifying of men, that we have the may walk acceptably before him; for else God will complain of them as he did of those in the Prophet, Did 100.

da es to me even to me, faith the Lord, Zach. 7.5.

It must be done with seeking of God, but yet it must be with denying of our selves; when we have done justice, and loved mercy, and pleased God, we may rejoyce in it, we may not boast of it, we must walk humbly still, like the Moon, the nearer we come to the Sun of righteouslines, the less glory we must assume unto our selves. Our justice must stand in sear of Gods justice, lest that consume it; and our mercy must cry to Gods mercy, that that may cover it. If Moses the justest and meekest man in his generation will appear before God he must have a hiding place to cover him, Exod. 34. 11.

When we have done the uttermost we can, we must go to God as Nehemiah did, Remember me O God, spare me according to the multitude of thy mercies, Neh. 13. 22. Non gloriabor quia justum sum, sed gloriabor quia redemptum sum, as St. Ambrose speaks. Our righteousness here stands not in the perfection of our virtues, but in the remission of our sins. Ve estam landabili vita hominum, sur remota misericordia discutias eam. But this is our

with Amianthum (as Athanasius speaks) can addure the fire, so we have Christ and his righteous as with which men cannot only stand before God, but walk with him too as

with Our God.

4. In faith, and confidence. Take away the Sun, and all the Stars of Heaven would never make day: So if a man have as many moral virtues as there be Stars in the firmament, and were destitute of faith in Christ, the Sun of righteousness, have not God for his God, there would be night and calmay in his foul still. Without faith there is no walk in the God; for two will not walk together unless there is

sgreed, Amos 2. 2.

But O what madness is it for man to disagree with God's for Adam to arm himself with fig leaves against his maker, the brars to rise in rebellion against fire, or imple to withstand whirlwind? Remember thy nature that will teach the thy daty. For he bath stewed thee o man! And what is man? Abraham will tell us in two words. Duft and Albes. Duft by his original, which came from Earth; Athes. by defert, which carry him to the fire, Revel. 20. 10. The law, a Law of fire, Deuter. 33. 2. The prison a lake of fire Revel. 20. 16. the Judge a confuming fire, Heb. 12. 18. with whom he may not contend, Bed. 6. 10. from whombe cannot escape, Pfal. 129. 7. Consider then what thou art O man, submit to a severe judgment, where there is record kept, an appeal entred, a writ of Error inforced against every miscarriage of thine. Therefore O man dojustly, and being of the same mould with thy Brother, set thy felf in his stead, Job 16. 4. We are all of us like leaves of trees, as Homer elegantly. That wind which blows away my neighbour to day, may blow away me to morrow. That mercy that I deny to him, I may live to see denied to my felf

The rich man who withheld crums was denyed drops,

Inc. 16. 246 Confider then what thou art O man, guille of fins, full of mifery, thou are forced to beg mercy.

be perswaded to love it.

Again, coulder the art Adam, Earth, and that is the lowest of all the elements. Daft then art, faid God to man, Duft the halt eat, faid God to the Serpent. So man is fitter to be a prey to Satan than a companion to his Maker. Of this dust indeed God made a vessel, and put a treasure of knowledg, and righteoufness in it. But what reason hath the cup to be proud of the wine, or the bag of the money which men put into it? Thou haft received, why shouldst thou 1 Cor. 4. 7.

ding but we are become now broken veffels, that retain not ding but dregs, our drink is become Merum Refred arium, four and corrupt, Hog. 4. 78. The pot is become a posherd. Consider then O man, that thou art made of Berth, though made for Heaven; in the one respect wall with God, but in the other respect humble thy self to do k. Te ad fidera tollet. No advancement to fich an

humility.

Thou hast his Majesty to awe thee, no approaching his presence but by Humility, with that man will I dwell that is of an lumble Spirit, Ifaiab 57. 15. Zacchem muft come down if he will have. Chrift abide in his House

Luke 19. 5.

Thou halt his mercy to aid thee, he will shew thee what is good; The meek be will guide in judgment, Pfalm 25. 9. and therefore he hath chosen these two Humble graces as pipes to convey mercy to the foul; by faith, which teacheth us to deny our felves, Phil. 3.9. and repentance, which teacheth us to abhorr our felves, Ezekiel 6. 9.

Thou halt his example to instruct thee, Who is like to. the Lord our God who dwelleth on high and bumbleth bimself, Pfal. 113. 5. Christ a King, one who doth justly and loveth mercy, yet he humbleth humbelf, Phil, 2, 8, fee

Athree virtues together, Zach: 9.9. Behold the King cometh

Thou hast his Glory to reward thee. He alloweth thee to look on his Law, not only as holy and the felf, but as good unto thee, Rom. 2.12. Down not my word do good to those that walk uprightly, Mic. 2. 7. He allowers thee to look in, and by the Requision his authority, but to Quid bonum thy own felicity. The duties performed are obedience only to him, but they are benefits to thee : not by way of debt, or condignity in thy work; but by way of promise and commant from his grace: Thy will chooseth, thy prayer deireh, thy hope expecteth.

All the comfort thou can't have by communion with

must come by Justice, Mercy and Jumility.

And now having so great duties to do, so great a teache instruct, so great authority to obey, so great a reward of rage; let each man in his place do justly, love mergy, and humble himself to walk with God here, that God may exalt him to live with him hereafter.

Now to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, three persons, and one immortal, invisible, only wife God, be all glory, majestie, and thank wing for

ever, Amen.

